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ABSTRACT

Based on extensive interviews, this book investigates how women in different academic disciplines perceive and describe their experiences as writers in the university. The book focuses on: (1) the writing strategies of 35 women from 5 different disciplines (anthropology, education, history, nursing, and psychology) and 4 academic ranks (seniors, graduate students, and faculty before and after tenure); (2) their ways of establishing authority; and (3) the kinds of audiences they address in different disciplinary settings. The first chapter draws connections between two diverging literatures: the literature on women's roles in academic institutions, and the literature on the nature of academic writing. Chapter 2 lays out the design of the book and discusses the feminist principles that guide the research methodology. Chapter 3 examines how women establish their authority in order to write and speak as successful students and professionals. Chapter 4 addresses how writers construct representations of audiences and of themselves in their writing. Chapter 5 examines how women's presence as scholars in the academy has changed the nature of research across the disciplines. Chapter 6 points to a number of directions for future research and teaching. A list of interview questions is appended. Contains 168 references. (RS)

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